

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SNAKE BELONGING TO
THE GENUS *HOPLOCEPHALUS*.

By J. DOUGLAS OGILBY, F.L.S.

HOPLOCEPHALUS FRONTALIS, *sp.nov.*

Scales in nineteen rows; abdominal plates 154; anal plate undivided; sub-caudal plates 30. Body elongate and rounded, tail short, terminating in a strong spinate scale; head small, but little distinct from the trunk; muzzle short, broad, and rounded; eye small, the pupil sub-elliptical. Rostral shield twice as broad as high, rounded above, and slightly bent backward between the anterior frontals, which are of moderate size and broader than long; posterior frontals much larger, as broad as long, obtusely angulate posteriorly, and *bent downwards on the side of the head so much so as to form a broad suture with the second upper labial*; nasal shield triangular, small; vertical hexagonal, rather longer than broad, with the outer margins slightly convergent behind, the anterior angle very obtuse, and the posterior rounded; supra-ciliary large; occipitals large, rounded posteriorly; one anterior ocular, just reaching to the upper surface of the head; two posterior oculars, the lower of which is the larger; temporal shields in two series, the lower shield of the anterior series in contact with both post-oculars; six upper labials, the third and fourth bordering the eye; mental shield acutely angulated posteriorly; anterior chin shields rather larger than the posterior; many small scales between the chin shields and the first abdominal plate. Four small teeth behind the poison-fang. Light brown above each of the scales narrowly margined with black, so as to give the appearance of network; a broad black nuchal collar, extending forwards over portions of the upper labials, temporals, and the lower posterior ocular to the eye; a black spot in front of the eye on the upper

third of the second and third upper labials; a black vertebral band, one scale in width, not continued on the tail; lower head shields grey with irregular dusky blotches; under surface pearly white, the abdominal plates with a broad bronze-colored median band.

This handsome and very distinct species was presented lately to the Australian Museum by Mr. J. Mozeley, who obtained it at Narrabri; its total length is $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of which the tail measures less than 2 inches, or one-eighth of the total. In the great lateral extension of the posterior oculars this species approaches Dr. Günther's genus *Rhinelaps* which in all probability will eventually have to be merged in *Hoplocephalus*. Register number R. 655.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Mr. Ogilby exhibited (1) a very handsome Lizard (*Lygosoma—Homolepida—casuarinae*, D. & B.) from Wentworth Falls, and remarked that it was the largest species of the genus, exceeding even *Lygosoma—Hinulia—lesueuri* in size; also that he considers it a scarce species; (2) a young specimen of *Hoplocephalus ornatus*, De Vis; (3) *Holocanthus tibicen*, C.V., a fish new to the Australian fauna, and apparently scarce everywhere, recently brought from Lord Howe Island by the Visiting Magistrate, Mr. Icely; Mr. Ogilby further remarked that in the small collection brought by that gentleman no less than seven species are hitherto unrecorded from the island, namely *Holocanthus tibicen*, *Chironemus marmoratus*, *Trachynotus russelli*, *Brama rayi*, *Pegasus draco*, *Cristiceps australis*, and an *Ophichthys*.

Mr. Etheridge exhibited specimens of the fossils dealt with in his paper.

Mr. Trebeck showed an exhibit of wool which, originally a low class dirty wool, by a process followed in Germany had been immensely improved and converted into what is technically known as "tops."